TRADITIONAL ECONOMY

G. 241 Traditional Georgian economy is based on agriculture, horticulture and viniculture; in the mountainous regions cattle-breeding and dairy-farming are no less important than the cultivation of cereals. In the West (Guria, Mingrelia, Imeretia) corn and a variety of millet called ghomi are sown; in the lowlands of Kartlia, wheat; in higher regions, barley; C G [407] in the mountain valleys, oats and rye--which are also used for baking bread. The ploughing implements differ according to the nature of the soil. In the West the plough is light and simple and drawn by a pair of oxen or buffaloes. In the eastern plains, where the soil becomes very dry and hard during the rainless summer, a large and heavy plough with fore-wheels (gutani), drawn by 4-8 pairs of oxen, is used; the soil is cut to a depth of 2-3 feet and thrown to the side by a shovel-shaped moldboard. Ploughing is done in the fall; sowing in fall (wheat) or spring (barley, corn). The soil is not harrowed, but the seed is covered by dragging bundles of brushwood C G [407] which are attached to a beam over the soil. For thrashing, an oblong or triangular wooden sledge (k'evri) set underneath with sharp stone splinters or pieces of iron is drawn by oxen over the threshing floor (k'alo); the driver stands on top. The grain is then winnowed by throwing it up in the wind with spades. The chaff is used as cattle-feed.

C. G. 231 241 beauty and stamina. Apiculture is also widespread among the Circassians; their beehives, contrary to those of the Georgians and Abkhaz, are similar to those found in Central Europe; they are made of bast or of plaited willow-twigs which are covered with clay or cow-dung.

C. D. 233 In Dagestan, stock-raising is preponderant (sheep, goats, cows, horses, donkeys, buffaloes). In winter, the herds are usually brought to the steppe-country in the South or to the Caspian coast area. C. D. 241 The southeast, i.e. the country of the Lezghi, is comparatively better suited for agriculture, but it is practiced even in the more elevated regions. Wheat, barley and millet are grown in small fields, situated on natural or artificial terraces, which often require artificial irrigation. C D [40] The ground is cultivated with a local kind of light plough called durats, puruts, etc. which only scrapes the soil superficially. As most of the fields require manuring, the constant removing of stones, and even restoring of the soil, which has to be carried up by hand, farming involves hard labor. C. D. 438 As the production of grain has never covered the needs of the population, home-industry is highly developed in Dagestan. C. D. [286] Everywhere the women do their own spinning and weaving. The spinning wheel is unknown; the looms for carpet-weaving differ from those for the weaving of coarse cloth out of homespun wool and of hemp-cloth used for sacks. Many crafts are practiced beyond the